

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

Memorandum for the Press
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 1934.

The purchaser of bottled whisky will be able to identify it on and after February 10 as a legal product upon which the tax has been paid, it was pointed out at the Treasury Department today. Beginning on that date, each bottle will be required to bear a red strip-stamp passing over the mouth of the bottle.

Dealers who have distilled spirits in stock on February 10 will have ten days in which to obtain the necessary stamps to affix to the bottles. The stamp will bear the name of the distiller, wholesaler, or importer, will state that the tax has been paid to the Government, and will indicate the quantity of liquor contained in the bottle.

Whisky will no longer be sold in bulk packages, under the Liquor Taxing Act of 1934 and regulations issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, except for certain specific purposes, not connected for the most part with retail trade. All whisky which is purchased for resale to the consumer must be in bottles and must bear the red strip-stamp.

The green strip-stamp now in use for bottled-in-bond whisky and the blue strip-stamp now used on whisky intended for export will be continued.

The purpose of the new regulation is to notify the public that bottled liquor which does not bear a stamp is probably illegally produced or the tax has not been paid. The stamps denote quantity in the container and are for a quart, a fifth, a pint, half-pint, and less than half-pint. Each stamp costs one cent, except those for less than half-pint containers, which are one-quarter cent each.

The stamps are engraved and printed by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, and not easily counterfeited. Every precaution is being taken against the use of spurious stamps.

The strip-stamp must be broken when the cork is pulled, and must be entirely effaced when the bottle is empty. If the stamp is broken at the time of purchase, the bottle may be a refill.

Heavy penalties are provided for the sale of unstamped whisky, and for failure to destroy the stamp, when the bottle is opened.